

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. Use of an aroma-providing substance in an amount sufficient to increase the organoleptic properties of a coffee flavor provided in a food or beverage, characterized in that the aroma-providing substance is a straight chain C<sub>4</sub>–C<sub>5</sub> mercapto-alkanone or a mixture of two or more thereof.

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2. Use according to claim 1, characterized in that the aroma-providing substance is 3-mercaptop-2-butanone, 2-mercaptop-3-pentanone, 3-mercaptop-2-pentanone or a mixture of two or more thereof.

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3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the aroma-providing substance is present in an amount effective to impart a catty-sulfury, fruity, roasty, odor character to increase the freshly brewed coffee organoleptic properties of the food or beverage.

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4. Use according to any preceding claim in which the aroma-providing substance is used in combination with 4-methoxy-2-methylbutan-2-thiol and/or with one or more of the compounds 4-mercaptop-4-methyl-2-pentanone, methional, and 4-mercaptop-4-methylbutyl formate.

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5. Use according to claim 4, characterized in that the one or more of the sulfur compounds is present in an amount effective to impart a fruity, blackcurrent-sulfury, odor character to increase the freshly brewed coffee organoleptic properties of the food or beverage.

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6. A method for increasing the organoleptic properties of a coffee flavor provided in a food or beverage which comprises providing a food or beverage and adding or incorporating at least one aroma-providing substance in the food or beverage in an amount sufficient to increase the coffee flavor thereof, characterized in that the

aroma-providing substance is a straight chain C<sub>4</sub>–C<sub>5</sub> mercapto alkanone or a combination of two or more thereof.

7. A food or beverage having enhanced organoleptic properties and obtained by  
5 the method according to claim 6.

8. A food or beverage that comprises a consumable component and at least one  
aroma-providing substance in an amount sufficient to increase the organoleptic  
properties of coffee flavor in the food or beverage, characterized in that the aroma-  
10 providing substance is a straight chain C<sub>4</sub>–C<sub>5</sub> mercapto alkanone or a mixture of two  
or more thereof.

9. A food or beverage according to claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the aroma-  
providing substance is 3-mercaptop-2-butanone, 2-mercaptop-3-pentanone, 3-mercaptop-  
15 2-pentanone or a mixture of two or more thereof.

10. A food or beverage according to any of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that it  
contains a mixture of the aroma-providing substance with 4-methoxy-2-methylbutan-  
2-thiol and/or with one or more of the compounds 4-mercaptop-4-methyl-2-pentanone,  
20 methional, and 4-mercaptop-4-methylbutyl formate.

11. A food or beverage according to any of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that the  
consumable component comprises a reconstitutable beverage, ready-to-drink  
beverage, alcoholic beverage, dough-based product, frozen confectionery product,  
25 chocolate or analogue thereof, cereal, or a spreadable dairy product or dairy  
substitute, or any mixture thereof.